

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are presently pending in this case. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 9-24 are amended and new Claim 25 is added by the present amendment. As amended Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 9-24 and new Claim 25 are supported by the original claims, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101; Claims 1-6, 9-14, and 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Wendt (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020090109); and Claims 7, 8, 15, 16, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wendt in view of Oosawa (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030039405).

With regard to the rejection of Claims 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. §101, Claims 17-24 are amended to recite a “computer readable medium,” which is an article of manufacture. Accordingly, Claims 17-24 are in compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §101.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1, 9, and 17 as anticipated by Wendt, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites in part:

a correction information generating means for performing a Fourier transform and a log-polar coordinate transform to said first image and said second image and generating correction information of said first image based on the results of said Fourier transform and log-polar coordinate transform; and

a matching means for performing processing of correction of said first image based on said correction information generated by said correction information generating means to generate a corrected first image, performing a correlation comparison between said corrected first image and said second image, and determining if the corrected first image matches the second image based on results of said correlation processing.

In contrast, Wendt describes a watermark detection method in which a watermark may be corrected before information is read therefrom.<sup>1</sup> The outstanding Office Action cited paragraphs 22-27 of Wendt as describing “a matching means” as recited in original Claim 1.<sup>2</sup> However, it is respectfully submitted that paragraph 23 of Wendt describes that an actual (i.e. uncorrected) watermark in digital content is compared to reference information, a deviation from the reference information is calculated, and the information included in a watermark is read using the calculated deviation information. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Wendt does not teach that the calculated deviation information is used to create a corrected watermark, *and that the corrected watermark is compared to any other reference*. Further, Wendt does not describe determining if the *corrected first image* matches the second image based on results of correlation processing. As noted above, once Wendt determines the deviation information, the watermark is simply read using the deviation information. Thus, Wendt does not describe any means for performing a correlation comparison between a *corrected first image* and a second image, or means for determining if a *corrected first image* matches a second image based on results of correlation processing. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted Wendt does not teach “a matching means” as defined in amended Claim 1. Consequently, Claim 1 (and Claims 2-8 dependent therefrom) is not anticipated by Wendt and is patentable thereover.

Amended Claims 9 and 17 recite in part:

performing a correlation comparison of said corrected said first image and said second image; and  
determining if the corrected first image matches the second image based on results of said correlation comparison.

As noted above, Wendt does not describe performing a correlation comparison between a *corrected first image* and a second image, or determining if a *corrected first image*

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<sup>1</sup>See Wendt, paragraph 13.

<sup>2</sup>See the outstanding Office Action at page 4, lines 5-22.

matches a second image based on results of correlation processing. Therefore, is respectfully submitted Wendt does not teach “performing a correlation comparison” or “determining if the corrected first image matches the second image” as defined in amended Claims 9 and 17. Consequently, Claims 9 and 17 (and Claims 10-16 and 18-24 dependent therefrom) are not anticipated by Wendt and is patentable thereover.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 7, 8, 15, 16, 23, and 24 as unpatentable over Wendt in view of Oosawa, it is noted that Claims 7, 8, 15, 16, 23, and 24 are dependent from Claims 1, 9, and 17, and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Oosawa does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Wendt. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 7, 8, 15, 16, 23, and 24 are patentable over Wendt in view of Oosawa.

Finally, new Claim 25 is supported least by original Claim 1. New Claim 25 recites in part:

a correlation unit configured to perform a correlation comparison between said corrected first image and said second image; and

a matching unit configured to determine if the corrected first image matches the second image based on results of said correlation unit.

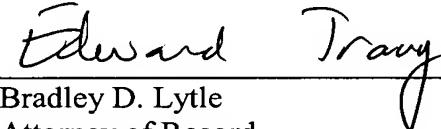
As noted above, Wendt does not describe a device that performs a correlation comparison between a *corrected first image* and a second image, or that determines if a *corrected first image* matches a second image based on results of correlation processing. Therefore, is respectfully submitted Wendt does not teach “a correlation unit” or “a matching unit” as defined in new Claim 25. Consequently, new Claim 25 is not anticipated by Wendt and is patentable thereover.

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Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance.  
An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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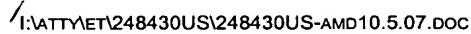
  
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